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Amendments to the Claims

Claims 1-15 (Canceled)

Please add new Claims 19-46:

19. (New) An article having at least one surface covered by a superabsorbent polymer coating comprising:

a) an article;

b) an aqueous coating composition that covers at least one surface of said article; said aqueous coating composition comprising:

1) a water-soluble superabsorbent polymer precursor;

2) an optional viscosity modifying agent; and

3) wherein said aqueous coating composition is cured on said article to form said superabsorbent polymer coating on at least one surface of said article.

20. (New) The article according to claim 19 wherein said article is selected from the group of articles consisting of tapes, mats, fabrics, rovings, fibrous strands, laminates, sheets, rods and cables.

21. (New) The article according to claim 19 wherein said article is selected from the group of articles consisting of molded articles, woven fabrics, scrims, wood and paper products, and construction materials.

22. (New) The article according to claim 19 wherein said article comprises a fibrous reinforcing material.

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23. (New) The article according to claim 22 wherein said fibrous reinforcing material is selected from the group of reinforcing fibers consisting of glass fibers, polymer fibers, carbon fibers, natural fibers, and blends thereof.

24. (New) The article according to claim 23 wherein said reinforcing fibers comprise polymer fibers selected from the group consisting of aramid fibers, nylon fibers, Kevlar fibers, polyester fibers, polyethylene fibers, polypropylene fibers, and combinations thereof.

25. (New) The article according to claim 24 wherein said polymer fibers comprise aramid fibers.

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26. (New) The article according to claim 19 wherein said superabsorbent polymer coating is corrosion resistant.

27. (New) The article according to claim 19 wherein said superabsorbent polymer coating is water resistant.

28. (New) The article according to claim 19 wherein said superabsorbent polymer coating absorbs water when immersed in an aqueous environment and desorbs said water when said coating is dried.

29. (New) The article according to claim 19 wherein said superabsorbent polymer coating absorbs up to about 400 times its initial dry weight in water when immersed in an aqueous environment and desorbs said water when said coating is dried.

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30. (New) The article according to claim 19 wherein said superabsorbent polymer coating has a swell rate of from about 50 grams of deionized water per gram of dry coating to about 340 grams of deionized water per gram of dry coating in the first minute.

31. (New) The article according to claim 19 wherein said superabsorbent polymer coating has a swell rate of from about 33 grams of salt water per gram of dry coating to about 66 grams of salt water per gram of dry coating in the first minute.

32. (New) The article according to 31 wherein said superabsorbent polymer coating has a swell rate of about 126 grams of water per gram of dry coating and about 50 grams of salt water per gram of dry coating in the first minute.

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33. (New) The article according to claim 19 with said aqueous coating composition further comprising a binder.

34. (New) The article according to claim 33 wherein said binder is selected from a group of binders consisting of polyesters, polyurethanes, epoxies, latex, and mixtures thereof.

35. (New) The article according to claim 33 wherein said binder is a film-forming binder.

36. (New) The article according to claim 35 wherein the film-forming binder is a polyurethane.

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37. (New) The article according to claim 19 with said aqueous coating composition further comprising a lubricant.

38. (New) The article according to claim 19 wherein the viscosity-modifying agent is selected from the group of viscosity-modifying agents consisting of alkyl celluloses, acrylamide polymers and mixtures thereof.

39. (New) The article according to claim 38 wherein the viscosity-modifying agent is an acrylamide polymer.

40. (New) The article according to claim 19 with said aqueous coating composition further comprising a wetting agent.

41. (New) The article according to claim 19 wherein said water-soluble superabsorbent polymer precursor is selected from the group of anionic salt forms of the polymer precursor consisting of anionic alkali salt polymer precursors and alkali metal salt polymer precursors.

42. (New) The article according to claim 41 wherein said water-soluble superabsorbent polymer precursor is an anionic polyacrylate.

43. (New) The article according to claim 19 wherein said superabsorbent polymer coating covers the entire surface of the article.

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44. (New) In combination, an article with a superabsorbent polymer coating thereon, said combination comprising:

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- a) said article;
 - b) said superabsorbent polymer coating formed on at least a part of said article;
 - c) said superabsorbent polymer coating formed by:
 - 1) applying an aqueous coating composition to at least a part of said article; said aqueous coating composition comprising:
 - (a) a water-soluble superabsorbent polymer precursor;
 - 2) curing said aqueous coating composition on said article to form said superabsorbent polymer coating.

45. (New) The combination according to claim 44 with said aqueous coating composition further comprising at least one of the following:

- a) a binder;
- b) a viscosity-modifying agent;
- c) a lubricant; and
- d) a wetting agent.

46. (New) The combination according to claim 45 wherein said binder is a film-forming binder.
